



Camel Rock  
Garden-of-the-Gods

# OUTREACH NOTICE

**GS-0462-3/4/5 Forestry Aid/Technician  
(Handcrew)  
Shawnee National Forest  
Temp NTE 1039 Hrs.**



## **Introduction**

The Shawnee National Forest will soon be filling several temporary GS-0462-3/4/5, NTE 1039 hours Forestry Aid/Technician (Handcrew) positions. These are arduous positions. The positions are located on the Hidden Springs Ranger District with the actual duty location in Murphysboro, Illinois. The work season runs from October through April with a break in December. The nationwide vacancies are located on the web at [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov) and are now open. The announcement numbers are: OCRT-0462-3-FIRE-DT, OCRT-0462-4-HANDCREW-DT, and OCRT-462-HANDCREW-DT-REL2. The primary purpose of these positions is to perform wildland fire suppression/management/control as a specialized firefighter with responsibility for the operation and maintenance of specialized tools and equipment. Other wildland fire related duties may involve fire prevention, patrol, detection, or prescribed burning. The incumbents may be assigned into one or more types of positions within the wildfire program where the individual's specialized skills are required. Come join our team and help make a difference.

## **Duties**

For GS-3 – Serves as a member of a fire crew assigned to suppress the full range of wildland fires. Performs assignments as a wildland firefighter in developing a working knowledge of fire suppression and fuels management techniques, practices and terminology. This consists of fireline construction, use of pumps and engines, hose lays using appropriate nozzles and nozzle adjustments in the effective use of water and additives, working in and around aircraft such as helicopters, safety rules and basic fire behavior.

For GS-4 – Serves as a skilled crewmember on a hand crew assigned to suppress a full range of difficult and complex wildland fires and prescribed fires. Utilizes a variety of specialized tools, equipment, and techniques while actively suppressing wildfires, such as a pulaski, shovel, McLeod, ax and chainsaw to control the spread of wildfire. Performs basic fireline activities such as line construction, lopping and scattering of fuels using hand tools, along with holding, patrolling, monitoring, and mop-up operations. Moves dirt, chops brush, removes small trees, etc. to construct fire line. Crewmember is responsible for observing the rules of wildland firefighting safety and applying practices and techniques to minimize resource damage.

For GS-5 - Serves as an experienced firefighter and work leader on a hand crew or other related fire crews performing fire suppression and/or fuels management duties under the most adverse conditions of climate, fuels, and terrain. Performs the duties of a fully qualified chain saw operator and chainsaw repair technician. Performs all aspects of wildland and prescribed fire operations including preparation, ignition, monitoring, holding, and mop up. Collects fire weather data. Responsible for operation and maintenance of specialized equipment used to respond to wildland and prescribed fire situations. Participates in wildland fire and safety training in the techniques, practices,

and methods of fire suppression and in the safe, efficient operation and use of tools, equipment, and vehicles used in fireline activities, with emphasis on those used in the particular function assigned.

**Work Capacity Test (WCT) for wildland firefighters: This position participates in wildland firefighting activities. Based on the type of work performed. Taking and passing the WCT at the arduous level is a “condition of employment.” The arduous fitness (Pack) Test consist of a three (3) mile hike, within forty-five (45) minutes, while carrying a forty-five (45) pound pack.**

### **Description of Forest**

At 280,000 acres, the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois is the largest unit of public land in the state. The Supervisor’s Office is located in Harrisburg, with Ranger Districts in Vienna and Jonesboro. The Forest sits at the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. The area is rich in history, reflecting the pioneer movement of Americans into the west. The Forest is predominantly oak-hickory, although pine was planted in many areas in the past. The razorback ridges associated with the Ozark upthrust are found on the west side of the Forest. The broader ridges associated with the Shawnee hills are found on the east side of the Forest. The Wisconsin glacier stopped north of the Shawnee, so the flat grand prairie (and its corn fields) more associated with the state of Illinois starts 40 to 60 miles north of the Shawnee.

Additional information about the forest may be found at [www.fs.fed.us/r9/shawnee](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/shawnee).

### **The Community**

Murphysboro is located in Jackson County, population is around 12,000 residents. Murphysboro has a wide selection of restaurants, as well as 2 grocery stores, a Wal-mart, and other amenities as needed. Some rental housing is available in Murphysboro for short term leases. It is located just west of the town of Carbondale where Southern Illinois University is located; Carbondale also has a wide variety of stores and restaurants, as well as rental properties available for short terms.

### **Recreational and Cultural Opportunities**

Recreational opportunities abound on the Shawnee. Hiking, hunting, camping, biking, fishing (including several fishing tournaments) and horseback riding are some of the recreational opportunities available. The River-to-River Trail runs from the Mississippi River to the Ohio River and crosses both the Forest and private properties. The Shawnee contains a portion of the Ohio River National Scenic Byway. This Byway is approximately 400 miles in length, runs from the Ohio/Pennsylvania border to the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and crosses three national forests. There are seven congressionally designated wildernesses on the Shawnee, which provide both solitude and scenic beauty. There are a large number of community festivals held in southern Illinois from the Apple Festival in Murphysboro, to Festival Italiano in Herrin, to the Deer Festival in Golconda, to Barbecue on the River in Paducah, KY. Golf courses and tennis courts are available in many communities.

### **Climate**

We experience all 4 seasons, with an average of 3” snow per year and temperature rarely below 0 degrees. Summer days are sunny and humid with highs in the 80’s – 90’s, occasionally topping 100. Spring weather can occur in March and fall weather can extend into November. During the spring and fall seasons, the climate and beauty of the area is especially compelling. Spring brings an abundance of blooming dogwoods, redbuds, and wildflowers. The fall is saturated with color, as the leaves turn brilliant reds, golds, and yellows. Garden of the Gods, the most visited

site on the Forest, is a must-see during the fall color season. The unusual rock formations, coupled with the surrounding Garden of the Gods Wilderness, is Mother Nature at her finest.

### **Education**

Pre-schools through high schools can be found in most communities and rank high in the state. There are several community colleges in the area offering quite reasonable in-district tuition. Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL offers a full range of baccalaureate through doctorate programs. Day care facilities are also available in most communities.

### **Churches**

Churches representing all major denominations can be found in most communities.

### **Economy**

Real estate here is moderately priced. The median price for purchasing a home is approximately \$85,000 and house rentals begin at approximately \$350 per month. Utilities are priced moderately. Tourism is a developing economic force in the area. In recent years several wineries have opened, offering two outstanding wine trails. Southern Illinois offers a rural environment with easy access to all possible amenities. Both shopping and entertainment opportunities are abundant within the area. Marion, Carbondale, and Paducah offer shopping malls, movie theaters, and several locally owned and operated restaurants, along with major chain and fast-food restaurants.

### **Health Care**

Health care facilities serving the area include full facility Carbondale Doctor's Memorial Hospital and Marion Memorial Hospital. Services at these hospitals include cardiac units, oncology, and neonatal units. Other hospitals providing care are Lourdes and Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah. All the hospitals provide 24-hour emergency room physician coverage and specialists.

For further information about the duties, please contact Forest Paukert, Supervisory Fire Engine Operator at 618-658-2111. For information about the community, please contact Daryl Kirtley, Support Services Specialist at 618-658-2111.

This outreach notice is to identify potential candidates to determine the area of consideration. **FOREST SERVICE EMPLOYEES ON THE WORKFORCE REDUCTION AND PLACEMENT LIST WILL RECEIVE PRIORITY CONSIDERATION AND CTAP/ICTAP ELIGIBLES WILL RECEIVE THE APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION.** If you are interested in applying for this position, please respond on the enclosed Outreach Notice Form by July 6, 2012.

political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to:

USDA

Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410

Washington, DC 20250-9410

Or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM

If you are interested in these positions, be sure to submit your application through [USAJobs](#) when it is advertised. In addition, you are encouraged to complete this form and reply to Monica Neal by

**July 6, 2012** in one of three ways:

E-mail: [monicaneal@fs.fed.us](mailto:monicaneal@fs.fed.us).

Fax: (618) 253-1063

Mail: Monica Neal

Shawnee National Forest

50 Hwy 145 S

Harrisburg, IL 62946

For additional details on the position, you may call Forest Paukert at (618) 658-2111

By completing this form, you are indicating that you are interested in the following positions, please place an "X" in the position(s) you are interested in:

- ☐ **Forestry Aid - Fire, GS-0462-3 (OCRT-0462-3-FIRE-DT) 1039 seasonal position**
- ☐ **Forestry Technician – Handcrew, GS-0462-4 (OCRT-0462-4-HANDCREW-DT) 1039 seasonal position**
- ☐ **Forestry Technician – Handcrew, GS-0462-5 (OCRT-0462-4-HANDCREW-DT-REL2) 1039 seasonal position**

Location:

- **Region 9, Shawnee National Forest, Murphysboro Work Center in Murphysboro, Illinois.**

### PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name		Date	
Address			
City		State	
Zip		E-Mail	
Phone number(s)			
Are you currently a federal employee			
If Yes, current agency and location			
current title/series/grade			
Type of Appointment if Current Government Employee	Permanent	Term	Temporary
Type of Schedule if Government Employee	Full-time	Part-time	Intermittent
If you are not a current permanent (career or career conditional) employee, are you eligible for appointment under any of the following special authorities (check the			

appropriate box):

	<b>Person with Disabilities</b>	
	<b>Veteran Readjustment</b>	
	<b>Former Peace Corps Volunteer</b>	
	<b>Disabled Veteran with 30% Compensable Disability</b>	
	<b>Student Career Experience Program</b>	
	<b>Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998</b>	
	<b>Other, please describe:</b>	